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ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR,
PARLIAMENTARIANS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER
PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA

Letter dated 6 June 1996 from the Ambassador of Iraq to Turkey
addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference

We kindly request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to circulate the document from the Iraqi National Assembly entitled "Healthy Cities", annexed hereto, as a document of the Conference under agenda item 10.

(Signed) Rafi D.M. EL-TIKRITI
Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq

Annex

HEALTHY CITIES

Document of the National Assembly of Iraq

INTRODUCTION

The issue of "healthy cities", as addressed in this paper, is in agreement with the two main topics to be discussed in the Habitat II Conference (Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996): sustainable development for the protection of the environment and provision of proper shelter for all.

Colleagues participating in the parliamentary meeting (1 May 1996) are asked to take into consideration the comments and suggestions presented below and to include them in the meeting recommendations to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

In reference to the "Bahrain Statement" on Supportive Environments for Health (UNEP/WHO inter-country meeting, September 1995), which focused on a healthy cities approach, and ...

in admiration of the partnership established between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with the participation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to act on the challenges identified in Agenda 21 and to promote the consideration of priorities for action in the achievement of supportive environments for health in the world and ...

Believing that a city is the embodiment of its inhabitants' social and physical environments, the mark of their particular architectural form and past expressions, a place of human bonding, culture and spiritual heritage, and not merely a collection of buildings and establishments, with ...

the identification of priorities regarding the many health and environment problems in the world, and ...

considering environmental issues such as water supply, air quality, sanitation, waste disposal, food safety and good working conditions among the major requirements for healthy cities, and ...

remembering always the need to alleviate the devastating effects of poverty, natural disasters, refugee problems and political conflicts, we ...

realize that sustainable development requires the integration of national, regional and local plans by local governments and backed by legislation where appropriate, we ...

aim at action by countries to create supportive environments to improve and protect the health of all people and to put health and environment protection at the centre of the city's social and political agenda, we ...

suggest that parliamentarians concerned from all over the world play a role in:

1. Addressing Governments, through their representatives in the Habitat II Conference, stressing mainly the strengthening of the capacity for urban development (sustainable development, the role of non-governmental organizations, decentralization, mobilization of resources, training, information management and research).
2. Addressing the international agencies participating in the Habitat II Conference, recommending their adoption of agendas based on the linkage between the urban crisis and the growing threats to sustainable life and development, and improving the process of inter-agency consultation and coordination in relation to urban development and its environmental health aspects.
3. Directly mobilizing local non-governmental organizations and interest groups.
4. Increasing public awareness of health and environmental issues in urban development efforts.
5. Supporting the principle of community involvement in decision-making regarding preparation and implementation of municipal health and environment actions and projects in order to promote innovation and change in local health and environment policy.
6. Promoting the role of women in environment protection and health promotion.
7. Strengthening the role of environment institutions in the city.
8. Encouraging the use of environmentally-sound technologies in supporting urbanization.
